

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the present abstract with the following:

Systems and methods are described for a usage-monitoring HVAC control system. A method, includes: ~~providing a usage-monitoring heating-ventilation and air-conditioning control system, the usage-monitoring heating-ventilation and air-conditioning control system including a programmable digital thermostat with an on-board memory; issuing personal identification numbers to each of a plurality of system users; associating each of the plurality of system users with at least one of a plurality of user types; storing the personal identification numbers in a first data structure in the on-board memory; and linking each one of a plurality of entries in the first data structure by reference to at least one of a plurality of entries in a second data structure in the on-board memory, the second data structure including a list of user types.~~ A method, includes: ~~receiving a request for an additional period of heating-ventilation and air-conditioning system services from a requesting system user, the requesting system user composing a plurality of system users; maintaining a data structure in an on-board memory of a programmable thermostat, the data structure including a list of time entries, each time entry associated with one of the plurality of system users; and updating the data structure by adding a duration in units of time to the time associated with the requesting system user.~~ An apparatus, includes: ~~a microcontroller; a digital temperature sensor coupled to the microcontroller; a liquid crystal display coupled to the microcontroller; a set of cursor buttons coupled to the microcontroller; an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory coupled to the microcontroller; an upload-capable connector coupled to the electronically erasable programmable read-only memory; a real-time clock coupled to the microcontroller; and a back-up power supply coupled to the real-time clock.~~ A method, includes regulating user access to an interactive user interface of a programmable thermostat, each user identified by a personal identification number associated with a user type such as, for example, ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ building owners, maintenance personnel, building tenants, and manufacturers.